total of 794 projects have been sanctioned so far under NRCP at a cost of Rs. 3089.59 crore.

Bio-medical waste by hospitals

3216. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM :
SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tons of bio-medical waste released by hospitals/health units in the country are creating fertile ground for disease like hepatitis, cancer and AIDS;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken, so far, by Government for the bio-medical waste management by the hospitals in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that health units are committing crime against nature and instead of disposing off the bio-medical waste, they recycle it to earn money; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take against recycling of bio-medical waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Improper disposal of bio-medical wastes could pose danger to human health and environment.

(b) Steps taken for proper management of bio-medical wastes by the hospitals in the country, *inter alia*, include the following :

* Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998 notified.
* State Pollution control Boards/Pollution control Committees designated as Prescribed Authorities for enforcing the provisions of Bio-Medical Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules.
* 48 Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment facilities established in the country.

(c) and (d) As per the Rules, every health care establishment must take all steps to ensure that bio-medical waste is handled without any

adverse effect on human health and environment. Further, under Schedule-I unauthorized reuse of category no. 4 wastes (waste sharps) is prohibited.

Lakes under NLCP in Karnataka

3217. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of lakes in Karnataka which have been taken up under the National Lake Conservation Plan;

(b) the amount, so far, spent for cleaning up of these lakes;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the progress of work in Karnataka;

(d) if so, what is the present status; and

(e) the amount proposed to be allocated for this purpose during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) to (d) Projects for conservation and management of following lakes have been sanctioned for Karnataka under National Lake Conservation Plan:-

(i) Vengaiahnakere, Bangalore

(ii) Nagavara, Bangalore

(iii) Jarganhalli, Bangalore

(iv) Kamakshipalya, Bangalore

(v) Bellandur, Bangalore

(vi) Kotekere, Belgaum

An amount of Rs. 6.48 crore has been released for these lakes, out of which Rs. 3.08 crore has been spent so far. The Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, is reviewing the progress of works regularly. Works in respect of Nagavara and Vengaiahnakere lakes are likely to be completed by October, 2003 and process for bidding is going on in respect of Bellandur and Kotekere lakes.